

REMARKS

The Office Action of November 20, 2007 has been received and carefully reviewed. It is submitted that, by this Amendment, all bases of rejection are traversed and overcome. Upon entry of this Amendment, claims 1-21 have been canceled herein. New claims 22-30 have been added in order to set forth additional specific embodiments of Applicant's invention. Support for new claims 22-30 may be found throughout the specification as filed, at least at pages 15-17, and in Fig. 4. Reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 6, 7, 11, 16, 17, 20 and 21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Loeb, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,014,641). Further, claims 2, 8, 12 and 18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Loeb in view of Iwamura (U.S. Patent No. 6,144,946). Also, claims 3, 4, 13 and 14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Loeb in view of Himmelstein (U.S. Patent No. 6,993,511). Yet further, claims 5, 9, 10, 15 and 19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Loeb in view of Neely (U.S. Patent No. 6,044,362).

Although Applicant does not acquiesce to these rejections, in order to expedite prosecution, Applicant has cancelled claims 1-21 and submitted new claims herein. As such, it is submitted that these rejections are hereby rendered moot.

In summary, claims 1-21 have been canceled, and new claims 22-30 have been added herein. It is submitted that, through this Amendment, Applicant's invention as set forth in these claims is now in a condition suitable for allowance.

Appln. S.N. 10/736,491
Amdt. dated March 20, 2008
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Further and favorable consideration is requested. If the Examiner believes it would expedite prosecution of the above-identified application, the Examiner is cordially invited to contact Applicant's Attorney at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: March 20, 2008
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